

SENATE BILL 1668
By Springer

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 7,
Part 2, relative to distance education.

WHEREAS, the issues concerning the utilization of technology to provide educational opportunities is rapidly changing; and

WHEREAS, it will soon become an essential element of the educational process for the citizens of the state of Tennessee and the nation as a whole; and

WHEREAS, it is vital that Tennessee be a leader in utilizing this technology to ensure a better-educated citizenry; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 7, Part 2, is amended by adding the following new section:

Section 49-7-212. In recognition of the need to ensure that Tennessee is a leader in the use of technology to provide opportunities for distance education for the citizens of this state, it is the intent of the general assembly that a sum of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) should be appropriated to the Tennessee higher education commission to accomplish two (2) purposes. First, the commission shall perform an assessment of need for distance education in Tennessee. Second, the commission shall work in conjunction with the University of Tennessee, the Tennessee board of regents and the Renaissance Center to develop a pilot project for the purpose of coordinating the offering of distance education in Tennessee.

SECTION 2. This act does not constitute an appropriation of funds. All appropriations shall be subject to the general appropriations act each fiscal year pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 9, Chapter 6, Part 1.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect on July 1, 1999, the public welfare requiring it.